



PARK HIGH SCHOOL

19 December 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

## Highlights

As the final week of the longest school term draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on an incredibly busy fifteen weeks. Right now, there are Year 13 students sitting their practice A-levels and Year 11 Dance students are actually being examined for the practical element of their GCSE. Year 11 completed two weeks of practice BTEC and GCSE examinations on 7<sup>th</sup> December and teaching staff have been marking thousands of scripts for the past three and a half weeks (and many will continue to do so well into the holiday).

Last Thursday, we held our school's Christmas Concert, which was a wonderful opportunity for our singers, instrumentalists, actors and dancers to entertain staff and their families. The very next day, some of those same young people provided entertainment for our favourite event of the school year – our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party – in which our beautiful young people serve and entertain visitors from the local neighbourhood as well as a number of local care homes.

Our amazing young people have also been busy, raising awareness and a lot of money for the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) – primarily for the Indonesian Tsunami Appeal – by holding a Christmas-themed day, where staff and students alike wore the most embarrassing array of Christmas jumpers! Well done to the School Council for organising this.

## Shakespeare Schools Festival

Congratulations, too, to our Shakespeare Schools Festival participants who, having rehearsed for a term, put on the most marvellous staging of an extract from Richard III at Harrow Arts Centre, on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

This is a quote from the Shakespeare Schools Festival appraiser, Iain Jones:

*"This Company created a very intriguing world, one in which a leader ruthlessly attained power before the people turned against him; or, in this case, her. It was great to see the murderous Richard played by a female actor. The Company worked together seamlessly to make a strong ensemble."*

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Headteacher Mr Emlyn Lumley

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*They amplified the struggles and dilemmas of the characters both physically and vocally. Richard had an effectively twisted body, which emphasised her twisted mind, and the use of two sticks extended the monstrous nature of the character. The Company made the language sharp like a weapon or hissed like a curse. We clearly felt the disgust that was aimed at Richard. The proposal scene with lady Anne was truly creepy and Clarence was furious at being sent to the tower. The hooded murderers who crept in to kill him were intensely intimidating.”*

## **School Magazine**

The latest edition of Park Life should have found its way home, to you. Enormous thanks to Mr Patel and our young people who contributed articles and edited and laid-out the magazine.

## **Examination Entries**

It is with regret that we are informing you that this will be the last year in which we will be allowing our students to sit public examinations, other than those taught within our curriculum, by our teachers within Park High. Both the costs and the administrative demands of entering students privately, has made this no longer a viable possibility. We will honour those students who have already requested to be entered for their home language this year, but from September 2019, we will be unable to meet similar requests.

## **Road Safety and Neighbourliness**

Perhaps we might all make a new year’s resolution not to drive our children to the school gates, not to try to collect them in our cars from the school gates and certainly never to park across the driveways of our neighbours and compound that insult by being aggressive or verbally abusive, as was the driver of a Black BMW, registration number WM07 GZV, whom we have reported to the police.

## **Staff Matters**

We have only one member of staff leaving at the end of this term. Mr Fletcher, Science Technician, has secured his own dream job working in the Cayman Islands. Mr Fletcher happens to be a very qualified diving instructor – we wish him the very best.

I wish all of you a peaceful, restful holiday and look forward to seeing our young people back in school for the start of the Spring Term in January.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Mr Emlyn Lumley  
**Headteacher**